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## **Booth Museum Exhibition Offers Glance into Lost Culture of Southeast Native American Tribes**

*Exhibition organized by Atlanta's High Museum of Art, with support from Ann and Tom Cousins,  
features an intimate look at many of the last leaders of American Indian tribes of this region*

CARTERSVILLE, GA – While Booth Western Art Museum's core collection focuses on the West and its people, visitors often inquire about images of the Native Americans who lived in the Southeast. To address this interest, Booth Museum will open an exhibition titled ***The Indian Gallery of Henry Inman*** on June 14.

On view through October 7, the exhibition features more than a dozen portraits of Southeast American Indian Chiefs from the early 1800s, as well as works by artisans of the time. The exhibition is organized by the High Museum of Art in Atlanta with the support of Ann and Tom Cousins.

“With few remnants of the previous tenants who called the Southeast region ‘home,’ it is easy to forget that by the early 1800s the Cherokee, Creek and Seminole Indians had largely become hybrid peoples, with degrees of assimilation or resistance to European-American customs while preserving their ancient traditions,” said Booth Museum Director of Curatorial Services Jeffrey Donaldson. “As we might discover a treasury left by previous inhabitants in our attic, ***The Indian Gallery of Henry Inman*** is a time capsule of legendary people who, despite their relocation on the Western frontier, provide an important link between the American South and West.”

Portrait artist Henry Inman was hired in the 1830s by Thomas McKenney, former head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to copy a series of earlier portraits by Charles Bird King. The original portraits by King were done from life, when visiting Indian dignitaries would sit for him. Inman's portraits, which captured the likeness of the Indian delegates, including the cultural influences of the time, were used for a book McKenney and James Hall published, the *History of the Indian Tribes of North America*. In time, Inman's copies would become more important as a fire at the Smithsonian Institute in 1865 destroyed nearly all of Kings' original portraits along with a collection of American Indian artifacts McKenney had assembled for display.

In the Booth Museum exhibition, visitors will gain insight into the lives of the last leaders of the Five “Civilized” Tribes, particularly the Cherokee, Creek and Seminole Nations who inhabited the Southeast through paintings and lithographic counterparts published by McKenney and Hall. Also on display will be period maps of the Southeast, and original accessories made by Southeastern tribal artisans including embroidered bandolier bags and silver gorgets similar to those worn by the Indian leaders featured in the paintings and lithographs.

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In addition to their cultural value as fine art and artifacts, the Cousins collection, particularly the portraits, provide an unparalleled first-hand encounter with the personalities they represent, relaying both gloom and optimism for their diplomatic missions in turbulent times. As a parallel to the portraits, the accompanying artifacts serve not only as objects of beauty or historical documentation, but capture the handiwork and expression of their unknown makers.

For more information on *The Indian Gallery of Henry Inman*, please call 770-387-1300 or visit [www.boothmuseum.org](http://www.boothmuseum.org).

### About Booth Western Art Museum:

Booth Western Art Museum, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is a 120,000 square foot museum located in Cartersville, Ga. Guests are invited to explore the American West through contemporary Western artwork. The Museum also houses a Presidential Gallery, Civil War art gallery, more than 200 Native American artifacts, and Sagebrush Ranch children's gallery. Visitors to Booth Museum also enjoy the intimate downtown setting with unique specialty and antique shops, boutiques and nationally featured restaurants all within walking distance of the Museum. Open since August 2003, Booth Museum is the second largest art museum in Georgia, and houses the largest permanent exhibition space for Western art in the U.S. To learn more about the Booth Western Art Museum, visit [www.boothmuseum.org](http://www.boothmuseum.org).

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